Have You Been Seven Times Purified?

> **John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:**
> **Luke 3:16 (KJV)**

If you're like me you've also wondered what John the Baptist meant here when He said we would be baptized with fire. Last night God spoke to me about this baptism of fire and how He manifests it in our lives.

> **The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.**
> **Psalms 12:6 (KJV)**

> **Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.**
> **2 Kings 5:14 (KJV)**

A bible study of the phrase 'seven times' yields very interesting results. This phrase is found throughout the old testament, fourteen times in the book of Leviticus alone. All of these instances are intrinsically tied to purification, especially that of the Jewish people.

> **Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.**
> **Daniel 3:19 (KJV)**

In the book of Daniel the Hebrew children are purified with a fire seven times hotter than normal and later on King Nebuchadnezzar is purified through seven years of chastisement (**Daniel 4:1-37 KJV**). We can see that the number seven is very important part of the mystery of God.

> **John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;**
> **Revelation 1:4 (KJV)**

We can also see in Revelation that seven plays a big part in the fate of the Bride. I have often wondered why there are seven candlesticks which represent the churches instead of just one or two; after all Christ tells us there are two folds (**John 10:16 KJV**). I have always surmised that the seven churches were indicative of seven types of Christian but wasn't sure in what manner. I believe that God is showing me now that each of these churches specifically represent Christians in one of these seven stages of refinement.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.
Revelation 3:10 (KJV)

We can see support for this idea in the descriptions of the seven churches in Revelation. After Christ addresses five of the churches He finishes with the Churches of Philadelphia and Laodicea. The condition of these two churches is like night and day. At one end of the spectrum we have the church of Philadelphia which Christ specifically promises to keep from the 'hour of temptation'. I believe this is because the church of Philadelphia has already been purified seven times and been found 'worthy to escape' (**Luke 21:36 KJV**)

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.
Revelation 3:16-18 (KJV)

Compare that to the Laodicean church which not only has yet to be tried by fire, but has no gold! Speaking from the perspective of biblical allegory the robe represents our salvation. To be naked before God is to be devoid of salvation.

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.
Job 23:10 (KJV)

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
1 Peter 1:7 (KJV)

Both old and new testament are in agreement on the importance of being tried by fire and thus purified. What is this purification? In a word, suffering. Suffering by putting down our flesh keeping our bodies under control. Taming the tongue. Suffering persecution for His name's sake. It is God who chooses the manner of suffering necessary to purify us. It is tailored to each of us as individuals and our part is to patiently endure it.

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.
Daniel 12:10 (KJV)

Once the scriptural importance of being purified seven times has been unveiled to us we can understand the final sevens of this world for what they are. The seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven bowls are all part of the seven years of Daniel's 70th week. To the world these will be punishment but to the Jews and Gentiles who God has selected for it these things will be for their purification. I urge you to study the book of Daniel for yourself in your King James bible.

Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

Daniel 10:14 (KJV)

Notice how the angel tells Daniel that this time period will specifically concern 'thy people' (The Jewish race) in the latter days? Daniel's 70th week is about the Jews, not the Gentiles. Christians have been hoodwinked by the false teachers into calling the seven year period known as Daniel's 70th week the 'great tribulation'. The difference is important because the bible is clear that Daniel's 70th week can only begin once the 'times of the Gentiles' (**Luke 21:24 KJV**) are completed.

> **These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**
> **John 16:33 (KJV)**

Technically speaking are we not in times of tribulation already? Have we not been seeing the birth pangs increasing in frequency over these years? Meanwhile silly Christians are fighting amongst themselves over whether Christ will return for them pre, mid or post tribulation when they should be getting ready to escape this world. Study the word for yourself folks, every Christian worthy of Christ is already going through great tribulation in their lives and has been for the last two thousand years.

The rapture of the saints and return of Jesus Christ are two completely separate events. That is the point of Christ's seven letters to the churches and their placement at the beginning of the book of Revelation. Everything after them concerns Daniel's people, the Jewish believers. With the exception of the church of Philadelphia those letters to the churches are a final plea to the foolish virgins to fill their lamps with oil and make herself ready before the Bridegroom cometh.

> **And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.**
> **Daniel 12:1-2 (KJV)**

Michael is the angel assigned by God to protect those under his charge, the people of the Jewish race whose name are written in the Lamb's book of life. Michael will only stand up for the Jews once the 'times of the Gentiles' are over. The purified bride is gone and the Holy Spirit taken away (**2 Thessalonians 2:7 KJV**).

Does this mean that Christian Gentiles will no longer exist? Of course not. There will be Gentiles getting saved and being purified after the 'times of the Gentiles' are over just as there are now Jews being saved during this dispensation. Of the bride it appears that only those Christians of the Philadelphia church which has already been purified seven times will take part in the rapture, the rest will be left behind to be further purified.

> **And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.**
> **Matthew 26:73-75 (KJV)**

Finally you should know that this purification process is not forced on us. Each of us must submit ourselves to it every step of the way and be willing to suffer for His name's sake. Peter was tested and so will we. Are you willing to suffer persecution and tribulation? Peter made the wrong decision but Christ in His great mercy saw Peter's heart and they were reconciled before it was too late.

Have you failed Christ? He is just as ready to forgive us as He did Peter (**John 21:16-19 KJV**). All we must do is repent, take up our cross and follow Him.